

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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FROM: BERLIN

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TO: Secretary of State

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SENT BONN 694, REPEATED INFORMATION DEPARTMENT 778
PARIS 185.

PARIS FOR HILLENBRAND

DURING RECENT WEEKS SOME CORROSION WEST BERLIN MORALE IMPERCEPTIBLE
IN DETAIL IS BEGINNING BE DISCERNIBLE IN CUMULATIVE EFFECT
(BERLIN'S DESPATCHES 620 AND 621). APPREHENSION RE OUTCOME
BERLIN CRISIS HAS INCREASINGLY PERVADED THINKING OF POLITICALLY
ARTICULATE SEGMENTS OF POPULATION.

THIS CONCERN ENGENDERED BY: 1) SOVS' SHOW OF SELF-ASSURANCE
AND AGGRESSIVENESS COMPOUNDED BY UNWILLINGNESS YIELD ON ANY
ASPECT THEIR SUBSTANTIVE DEMANDS WHILE MAKING ONLY APPARENT
CONCESSIONS RE PROCEDURAL MATTERS; 2) INCLINATION SOME ELEMENTS
IN WEST DETECT FAVORABLE OMENS IN THESE "CONCESSIONS"; 3) APPARENT
LACK ALLIED UNITY IN DEALING WITH SOV MOVES AND INABILITY (AS
REPORTED IN PRESS) AFTER THREE MONTHS' CONSULTATION ARRIVE AT
PLAN OF ACTION; 4) WORRY THAT EVEN SOME KEY WESTERN POLICY
AND OPINION MAKERS MAY FAIL RECOGNIZE DEADLY SERIOUSNESS
SOV CHALLENGE AND MAY FAIL PREPARE MATERIALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY
FOR REAL SHOWDOWN WITH SOVS OVER WHAT MIGHT SEEM TO WESTERN
PUBLICS TO BE MINOR "GDR CONTROL" ISSUE; 5) FEAR IF SOVS GO
TO BRINK WEST MIGHT UNWITTINGLY MAKE WHAT APPEAR BE MINOR
CONCESSIONS WITH MAJOR IMPLICATIONS PLACING CITY'S FREEDOM
IN SERIOUS JEOPARDY; 6) PRESS REPORTS RE 2, 3, 4, ESPECIALLY
SPECULATIVE ARTICLES BY COLUMNISTS, WHICH HAVE GREATLY CONTRIBUTED
TO FEELING UNEASINESS AND HAVE DIMINISHED BENEFICIAL EFFECTS
RECENT REAFFIRMATIONS BERLIN GUARANTY; 7) SECRETARY'S ILLNESS
AT CRUCIAL TIME IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS.

BERLIN LEADERS FEEL PRESENT IMPASSE UNLIKELY BE SOLVED BY FURTHER

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By TKT NARA, Date 1-5-93

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-2-778, MARCH 9, 9 P.M., FROM BERLIN

STATEMENTS. THEY CONVINCED MORE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE WESTERN DETERMINATION, SUCH AS BUILD-UP GENERAL MILITARY STRENGTH, MAY BE REQUIRED DISSUADE SOVS FROM CARRYING OUT THEIR THREATS TO TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION. THERE NO QUESTION IN THEIR MINDS SUCH MOVES WOULD MEET WITH FULL APPROVAL BERLIN POPULATION AS SIGN OF WESTERN RESOLVE (SEE BERLIN'S AIRGRAM G-324 TO SECSTATE, G-145 BONN).

BASICALLY BERLIN'S LEADING ELEMENTS REMAIN ADMIRABLY CALM AND BRAVE DESPITE INNER CONCERN AND CONTINUE PUT FAITH IN BELIEF THAT, IF THEIR PROTECTORS STAND FIRM, SOVIETS WILL ULTIMATELY NOT DRIVE MATTER TO ARMED CONFLICT. BERLINERS NATURALLY ALSO HOPE THAT IF THERE MUST BE CONCESSIONS THEY WILL BE ONES FOR WHICH FULL PRICE IS PAID BY SOVIETS; THAT IS, REAL COMPROMISES NOT WESTERN SURRENDERS.

ALTHOUGH RESPONSIBLE BERLINERS ARE USUALLY CAREFUL NOT TO CRITICIZE UNFAVORABLY BRITISH AND FRENCH WE HAVE GENERAL IMPRESSION THAT THEY CONSIDER FRANCE WILLING BUT WEAK BECAUSE OF ALGERIAN SITUATION, BRITAIN MOMENTARILY IRRESOLUTE THOUGH BASICALLY PROBABLY DEPENDABLE, AND LOOK TO USA TO PROVIDE BOTH INITIAL STRENGTH AND LEADERSHIP NECESSARY TO PUT FULL RESOURCES FREE WORLD IN LINE AGAINST SOVIET MENACE TO ITS MOST EXPOSED CITIZENS.

INSOFAR AS WE CAN DETECT MASS BERLIN POPULATION NOT AS APPREHENSIVE AS POLITICALLY INFORMED ELEMENTS. THERE ARE ONLY SCATTERED OUTWARD SIGNS OF DISQUIET. BERLINERS GENERALLY HAVE ADOPTED ATTITUDE WATCHFUL CONCERN, CLOSELY SCRUTINIZING ALL DEVELOPMENTS RELATING BERLIN SITUATION. PARTY LEADERS REPORT QUESTIONS ASKED AT PARTY MEETINGS INDICATE EXTRAORDINARY AWARENESS INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. OUTWARD CALMNESS OF POPULATION EVIDENCED BY ABSENCE INCREASED BUYING OR HOARDING OF NON-PERISHABLES. BERLIN LEADERS WISH HOUSEWIVES WOULD FILL THEIR LARDERS IN ORDER MAKE ROOM IN CITY'S WAREHOUSES FOR FURTHER PUBLIC STOCKPILING BUT DONT QUITE KNOW HOW TO SUGGEST SUCH PRIVATE STOCKPILING WITHOUT CAUSING PANIC.

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By <u>DK</u> NARA, Date <u>1-5-92</u>